
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 980 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BELFANTI, BEYER, BOYLE, BRADFORD,
CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI,
EVERETT, FLECK, GEIST, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL,
GOODMAN, GRELL, HARHART, HARKINS, HELM, HESS, KOTIK, MAJOR,
MANN, MARSICO, MILLARD, MOUL, M. O'BRIEN, OLIVER, O'NEILL,
PARKER, PHILLIPS, QUINN, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROEBUCK,
SANTONI, SCHRODER, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SONNEY, STERN,
SWANGER, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD,
OCTOBER 4, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER
4, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Promoting youth suicide prevention education for all
2 administrative, teaching and counseling personnel in all
3 public and private high schools in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, In 2006, 2007 and 2008, there were 154 suicides in
5 Pennsylvania in which the victim was 20 years of age or younger
6 and an average of one suicide every week involved a high school
7 age victim; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2006, almost 1,100 Pennsylvania youth 15 to 19
9 years of age made a suicide attempt that required
10 hospitalization, indicating that an average of three older teens
11 are hospitalized because of a suicide attempt every day; and

12 WHEREAS, Suicide is the third leading cause of death for
13 young people in this Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control's 2009 Youth Risk

1 Behavior Surveillance Survey found that in the previous 12
2 months more than 13% of Pennsylvania high school students
3 seriously considered suicide, almost 10% planned suicide and
4 nearly 6% made a suicide attempt; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Task
6 Force's Five Year Action Plan calls for suicide prevention
7 education for teachers and students by July 2012; and

8 WHEREAS, Signs of possible suicide risk or suicidal behavior
9 may affect school performance or be otherwise evident in the
10 classroom or other school settings; and

11 WHEREAS, Suicide is a preventable community health problem
12 among youth and other age groups; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all of
14 the more than 1,000 public and private high schools and the 500
15 school districts in Pennsylvania to facilitate and further youth
16 suicide prevention education for all administrative, teaching
17 and counseling personnel in the 2010-2011 school year and every
18 two years thereafter, and that this education familiarize high
19 school personnel with the risk and protective factors for youth
20 suicide, the warning and danger signs, the common myths and
21 misconceptions of suicide and school and community resources
22 offering help to students at risk of suicide.